



ROME

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ROME CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NEWSLETTER  2019-20

2019-20 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET INFORMATION

YOU WILL SEE 2 PROPOSITIONS ON THE BALLOT

PROPOSITION #1 – SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET - \$116,692,438

That the proposed budget of expenditures of the Rome City School District for the 2019-20 school year be, and the same hereby is, approved in the amount of \$116,692,438 and that the necessary tax therefore shall be levied after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources as approved by law.

PROGRAM (74%) - \$85,778,150

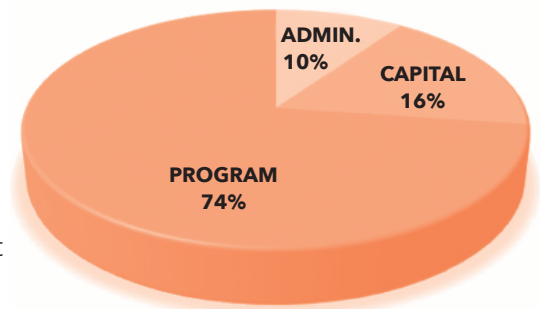
Textbooks, classroom supplies and equipment, field trips, transportation, sports, salaries, benefits and other curriculum related expenses, such as art, music, libraries, physical education, in-service training of teachers, and special education services.

CAPITAL (16%) - \$18,802,213

Operation of buildings, maintenance and repairs, equipment, debt service, salaries and benefits for custodial and maintenance staff.

ADMINISTRATION (10%) - \$12,112,075

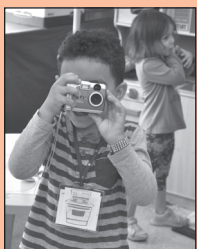
Expenditures for the operation of board meetings, superintendent, business office, auditing, personnel, legal expenses, school supervision, salaries, administrative clerical and employee benefits.



PROPOSITION #2 – SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES - PAGE 4-5

There are three (3) at-large positions on the Board of Education that will be available on July 1, 2019. These three positions are for full three-year terms, to expire June 30, 2022.

RESIDENTS GO TO THE POLLS ON TUESDAY, MAY 21
POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 9 A.M. TO 8 P.M.



Voting locations, budget notice/details and candidate information listed inside.

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES BY TYPE

TYPE	2019-2020 PROPOSED	PERCENT OF BUDGET
Instruction	\$53,501,643	46%
Administration	\$8,890,115	8%
Central Services	\$7,907,502	7%
Transportation	\$7,202,728	6%
Debt Service	\$8,400,396	7%
Benefits	\$30,790,054	26%
Total	\$116,692,438	100%

CURRENT YEAR VERSUS PROPOSED BY TYPE

	2018-2019 ACTUAL	2019-2020 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE
Instruction	\$54,391,945	\$53,501,643	(1.64%)
Administration	\$8,585,224	\$8,890,115	3.55%
Central Services	\$6,696,516	\$7,907,502	18.08%
Transportation	\$6,444,683	\$7,202,728	11.76%
Debt Service	\$11,339,681	\$8,400,396	(25.92%)
Benefits	\$30,451,282	\$30,790,054	1.11%
Total	\$117,909,331	\$116,692,438	(1.03%)

SUMMARY

	ACTUAL 2018-2019	PROPOSED 2019-2020	PROPOSED CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
Appropriations	\$117,909,331	\$116,692,438	(\$1,216,893)	(1.03%)
Revenues & Appropriated Fund Balance	\$84,121,430	\$81,531,207	(\$2,590,223)	(3.08%)
Tax Levy	\$33,787,901	\$35,161,231	\$1,373,330	4.06%

If you have questions regarding the Budget Newsletter, please call David Dreidel, Director of Business and Finance at 315-338-6541.



www.romecsd.org



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District YouTube channel:
Visit: www.romecsd.org,
and click on Parent
Resources to subscribe.

ESTIMATED TAX LEVY

2018-2019 ACTUAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY	2019-2020 ESTIMATED PROPERTY TAX LEVY	DIFFERENCE	PERCENT CHANGE
\$33,787,901	\$35,161,231	\$1,373,330	4.06%

PROJECTED TAX RATES

**Per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation*

MUNICIPALITY	2018-2019 ACTUAL	2019-2020 PROJECTED	\$ CHANGE IN RATE	PERCENT INCREASE	PERCENT OF TAX BASE
Rome	\$30.89	\$32.47	\$1.58	4.06%	74.36%
Annsville	\$41.06	\$41.16	\$0.10	4.06%	0.47%
Lee	\$690.75	\$698.66	\$7.91	4.06%	19.59%
Verona	\$31.94	\$32.30	\$0.36	4.06%	0.29%
Western	\$42.19	\$42.68	\$0.49	4.06%	5.29%

ESTIMATED TAX IMPACT ON A TYPICAL HOME

City of Rome - Based on a Home Assessed at \$100,000



	2018-2019 ACTUAL	2019-2020 PROJECTED
Assessed Value @ 100%	\$100,000	\$100,000
Tax Rate	\$30.89	\$32.47
Tax Amount	\$3,089	\$3,247
Basic STAR Reduction	(\$671)	(\$684)
Net Taxable Value	\$2,418	\$2,562
Difference	0	\$144

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

TANYA DAVIS

As a child, I "grew up in" Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood. His mother taught him a lesson that he relayed to his viewers, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." As I grew older, I heard another piece of sound advice: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." The words of Fred Rogers and Margaret Mead have guided me throughout my personal and professional life. I have always felt a calling to be of help to others, and I have always felt empowered to affect change when engaged with like-minded individuals. As a member of the Rome City School District Board of Education, I will be committed to helping Rome become a model school district, connecting home, school, and the community. We need change - but that change needs to be a shift toward consistency, collaboration, and connectedness. We need a long range plan that serves the needs of every child who passes through our doors.

A lifelong Roman, I graduated from Rome Free Academy, and my own three children, now completing their sophomore and junior years at RFA, and freshman year at college, were raised and educated here.

I've spent the past fifteen years actively engaging in our schools, from roles as a room mother to a parent group leader to committee member contributing to the various changes and challenges our district has faced. At the heart of every initiative I've been involved with is a deep desire to give every child in our community the opportunity to excel both in and out of the classroom, and to support our teachers, staff, and administrators in creating those opportunities. I've spent countless hours in service of our students and staff, and will dedicate that same time, passion, and energy to a board role.

I have no agenda or platform save for this: It is my goal that Rome City School District becomes the most desirable school district in Central New York. I want every parent to be able to say, "I am SO glad that my child receives their education in Rome." I would appreciate your vote on Election Day, for the good of our children and our city.

PAUL HAGERTY

I am running for another term to support the board through my interest in education, and my experience and knowledge of the school district and its students, parents and community. I understand the role and functioning of the board and its members in supporting the Superintendent, Mr. Peter Blake. I have an understanding of district finances, facility planning/implementation, and academic planning and in the past have been active in school district policy development. I have been actively involved in lobbying and educational planning as a representative to the local School Boards Institute, the state wide New York School Boards Association, and have interacted with local officials relative to educational initiatives and industrial development actions.

The school district is important to our community and to its future. The district is a people centric entity serving the needs of our students and their families while partnering with a range of organizations external to the district. The district is geographically large with an urban/suburban make-up and serves large numbers of students with economic and special academic needs. To accomplish its mission the district is dependent on many external organizations both for resources and services. The district is large by central New York standards and a leader in fostering educational initiatives within our BOCES region. A current example is the literacy initiatives with emphasis on the early grades and reading and writing across the curriculum. It complements an initiative to promote parent and community involvement in our schools, and supports the closely related mentoring and community schools initiatives.

Finally, I believe our community can be proud of the progress made to compensate for the dramatic downsizing of the school district occurring after the closing of Griffiss AFB. By dealing with excess facilities while at the same time upgrading our academic infrastructure to 21st Century standards, and to accomplish this with the minimal expenditure of local resources. Looking forward, I believe we need to continue this process and address the needs of our RFA, Staley, Stadium Support facility and the possibilities of expanding our smaller elementary buildings to more effectively and efficiently support our k-6 grade configuration. Please vote on 21 May and express your support for your school district.

LISA HERBOWY

I am a lifelong resident of Rome and graduated from Rome Free Academy in 1985. I have a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Buffalo State College and have been employed by Oneida County since 1990. My current position as a Juvenile Probation Officer has afforded me the opportunity to work with several area school districts, including Rome. In my capacity as a Probation Officer I have been a part of several committees through the Rome District including the DASA (Dignity for All Students Act) committee, the Dress Code committee and the Attendance committee. It was my pleasure to sit on a committee comprised of several community representatives who, in conjunction with two other committees, were responsible for choosing the best candidate to fill the Principal position at Rome Free Academy.

I am also a parent of two children in the district, one who graduated from RFA in 2016 and the other who is currently a Senior. I have been actively involved in their education as well as their extra-curricular activities having served as President and Vice President of the Denti PTO.

I am running for school board because I am concerned and disappointed at the direction taken by the District.

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

Throughout my children's educational careers I have seen too many programs, both educational and extra-curricular be eliminated from our district while at the same time watching our "neighboring districts" increase the opportunities offered to their students. Wouldn't it be nice to offer our 6th graders the opportunity to take Chinese? How about offering Defensive Driving classes to our high school students or have every student in our district get free lunch regardless of their income? These opportunities may not appeal to everyone but I believe that the more options we give to our children the better their educational experience will be, resulting in a pride that we need to instill in this community.

I have heard many board members talk about being a "team player" which I think is great however I think the most important job of the school board is to be the "checks and balances" to whoever is in charge of our district. It seems like without that oversight we end up cutting programs, staff, and raising taxes all of which are not good for our students or the taxpayers. Our children are the foundation for building a strong community.

FELICIA JAMES-WILLIAMS

My name is Felicia James-Williams and I have been a resident of Rome since November 2004. Education is the key to opening the possibilities of a better future for our youth. To achieve a better future there must be community leadership, as advocates for all children in the City of Rome School District. Two goals must be to provide a quality education for all children and to give our teachers the tools and resources they need to help children succeed. I can be objective, fair and understand the diverse needs of our schools.

I will come to the school board with an open mind and objectivity necessary to perform all functions of a school board member. I will fulfill this responsibility by working together with other members of the school board, the Superintendent, teachers and staff and most importantly with families and students. As a governance team we will make decisions that will best serve all students in the community.

I am passionate about ensuring that all our children get the best start in life. My husband and I are raising our niece and she attend an elementary school here in Rome. Schools are the backbone of a community, the future of a community and I am concerned about issues facing our schools, largely due to a shortage of operating revenue. Students success and school grades will increase only if school, teachers, staff and administrators have the resources and support they need to provide a quality education. The strength of any school district lies within it administration and staff. We must keep the excellent Teachers and Staff we have.

Education is not about poking around in the dark hoping you find something that works. It's a complex network of strategies that require experience, knowledge and commitment at every level. With all the work the school board requires there must also be a demonstration of honesty and open communication between the school district and the community. Together we can work hard to identify concerns and work on solutions together. We must acknowledge our children's diverse interest. Schools need to be able to offer sports, clubs and extra-curricular activities without worries of losing them. Let's all remember the goal of a quality education is to provide our children with a good experience, the opportunity to learn and help to plan their future. No matter what path our children take after graduation, college, trade school, work force or to serve our country they need the education and tools to get there. I would be honored to be a small part of that future. I would be honored to have your vote.

LARRY POSSELT

In 2015, I had the privilege of being appointed to the board of education. The current board has shown some very favorable strides in making adjustments to move the district forward. This progress has encouraged me to continue to be part of that movement. However, as you know, I have expressed dissatisfaction over the years due to the lack of achievement in many areas! I strongly believe no goal is unattainable given a positive perspective and guidance. Serving as a member of the board gives me the opportunity to better grasp and comprehend the educational process, thus enabling me to make a difference for the future.

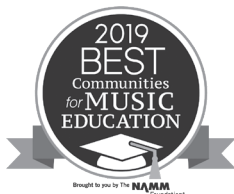
I would like to continue to offer the board my expertise and prowess in several capacities. I currently preside over several local businesses and have done so for almost thirty years. I have a very diverse background in purchasing, contract negotiations, sales, employee relations, and finance. The upcoming years will be exceptionally financially challenging. Rather than choosing the path of least resistance and walking away, I choose to meet these challenges head on with a firm grasp of financial proficiency.

I am the proud father of a daughter in the seventh grade. I find it to be both an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to represent the best interests of not only my child, but everyone's children. I graduated from RFA in 1986. I then went on to earn an associate's degree in accounting from USC. I feel I am very direct and forthright! In saying this, I tend to lead quietly and do not aspire to be front page news for the Rome Sentinel. I believe you pick and choose your battles for greater success. This pattern in thinking is a tremendous virtue as it displays a necessary sense of circumspection. In closing, I believe my reputation in Rome for being a very fair and honest businessman does in fact carry over to the board. That is likely the greatest attribute I bring to the board of RCSD.

POINTS OF PRIDE

ROME FACTS:

- Current Enrollment: 5,974
- Total Expense per Pupil: \$20,895
- Allowable Contingent Tax Levy is \$33,787,901
- 96% of Budget is FIXED Cost
- Combined Wealth Ratio: .39400
- 34 College Course Offerings (MVCC, Syracuse University, SUNY ESF, RIT)
- 1,466 Seats Occupied in College Courses



FINE ARTS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1,666 students participating in instrumental vocal music program
 - 49 Elementary All-County Participants
 - 39 Junior High All-County Participants
 - 31 Area All-State Participants
 - 3 Conference All-State
 - Gold Ratings for NYSSMA Majors: All RFA Ensembles
 - RFA Marching Black Knights State Champions (LS3)
 - NAMM Best Community for Music Education (four years in a row!)
- Yearly Community Art Shows including the Rome Historical Society, Rome Hospital, City Hall, Fort Stanwix Willett Center, the Rome Community Theatre, the Capitol Theater, MVCC, and the Rome Art & Community Center.
- Community Partnerships with Rome City School District include: Rome Chamber of Commerce Career Fair; Rome Community Foundation Instrument Drive; MVCC STEM Day; and Rome Academy of Sciences Science Fair.

ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 281 students obtained a Regents Diploma (89.5%)
- 105 students obtained a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation (33.4%)
- 48 students obtained a Regents with a CTE Endorsement (15.3%)
- Total Completer Rate = 82.8%
- 245 students attending 2-year or 4-year colleges
- 86 students directly to the workforce



ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Rome athletes consistently compete at local and state level
- 32 fall/winter/spring athletes receive all-league/conference/region/state recognition
- 8 league championships
- Representation at state and national competitions for boys/girls track and field; wrestling, and girls bowling (Section 3 Champions)
- 72 athletic programs (modified, JV, varsity) 1,410 student athletes
- Three seasons produced 18 scholar athletic teams; 302 individual scholar athletes



SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE • OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 117,909,331	\$116,692,438	\$115,319,108
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		\$-1,216,893	\$-2,590,223
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		-1.03%	-2.20%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	33,787,901	35,159,690	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	0	0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	0	0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	33,787,901	35,159,690	33,787,901
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$63,712	\$205,207	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$33,962,168	\$34,954,483	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$33,724,189	\$34,954,483	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$237,979	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$11,565,540	\$12,112,075	\$11,510,314
Program Component	\$85,686,115	\$85,778,150	\$85,291,581
Capital Component	\$20,657,676	\$18,802,213	\$18,517,213
<p>* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2019-20 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.</p> <p>The contingent budget proposal assumes removal of non-health and safety required equipment along with all other non-contingent items pursuant to Sec. 2023 of NYS Education Law along with reductions to comply with the cap on administrative portion of the budget.</p> <p>In addition, as a contingent budget necessitates a zero percent tax levy increase, it assumes additional budget cuts of approx \$1.37mm</p>			
<p>** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)</p>			
Description		Amount	

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmqts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$684

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-20 by the qualified voters of the Rome City School District, Oneida County, New York, will be held at said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of 9:00am and 8:00pm at the following election districts: **First and Second Wards:** Staley Elementary School - 620 E. Bloomfield St.; **Third Ward:** Lobby at City Hall - 198 N. Washington St.; **Fourth Ward:** Gansevoort School - 758 W. Liberty St.; **Fifth Ward:** Strough Middle School - 801 Laurel Street; **Sixth Ward:** St. Paul's Catholic Church - 1807 Bedford St.; **Seventh Ward:** Life Church - 1110 Black River Boulevard (new); **Eighth and Ninth Wards:** Stokes School - 9095 Turin Rd.; **Tenth Ward:** Westernville Library - 9172 Main St. Westernville, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Paul Fitzpatrick, President
Stephen Hampe, Vice President
Paul Hagerty, Clerk

John Leonard • Leigh Loughran
Joseph Mellace • Larry Posselt
Jonathon Matwijec-Walda

ADMINISTRATION

Peter C. Blake, Superintendent
Chris Brewer, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum & Instruction
Robert Mezza, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for
Operations & Management
Jim DeAngelo, Director of Instruction
David Dreidel, Director of Business & Finance

Andrea Falvo, Director of Fine Arts and Engineering
Technology
Amanda Jones, Director of Counseling
Geoffrey Morton, Director of People Operations
Nicholas Panuccio, Treasurer
Alex Rodriguez, Director of Facilities III
Patrick Sullivan, Director of Information Technology

ROME CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

409 Bell Road
Rome, New York 13440

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"The Rome City School District is an equal opportunity employer and an equal educational institution."
Compliance Officers for Non-Discrimination: Geoffrey Morton: 315-338-6532 and Amanda Jones: 315-338-6518

RESIDENTS GO TO THE POLLS ➡ TUESDAY, MAY 21

WHERE TO VOTE:

- **First Ward:** Staley Elementary School - 620 E. Bloomfield Street
- **Second Ward:** Staley Elementary School - 620 E. Bloomfield Street
- **Third Ward:** Lobby at City Hall - 198 N. Washington Street
- **Fourth Ward:** Gansevoort School - 758 W. Liberty Street
- **Fifth Ward:** Strough Middle School - 801 Laurel Street **(new)**
- **Sixth Ward:** St. Paul's Catholic Church - 1807 Bedford Street.
- **Seventh Ward:** Life Church, 1110 Black River Boulevard **(new)**
- **Eighth Ward:** Stokes School - 9095 Turin Road
- **Ninth Ward:** Stokes School - 9095 Turin Road
- **Tenth Ward:** Westernville Library - 9172 Main Street, Westernville

A description of the boundaries of the school election districts is on file and may be inspected in the school district's Business Office, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Business Office is located at 409 Bell Road, in the Clough building.

WHO MAY VOTE:

Voters must be registered in order to vote in this election. In order to vote, you must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and a resident of the Rome school district for at least 30 days before the day of the vote.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS:

Qualified, registered voters who wish to vote absentee can request an application from the District Clerk. Completed applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 14 in order to receive an absentee ballot by mail. Anyone whose application is received after May 14 must appear in person at the District Clerk's office, 409 Bell Road, to pick up an absentee ballot. **Completed absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5 p.m. May 21.** Completed ballots received after this time cannot be accepted.

VOTING DAY:
Tuesday, May 21, 2019



POLLS OPEN: 9 A.M. TO 8 P.M.